



Newsletter 1

December 2012

ARCHES – Archaeological Resources in Cultural Heritage – a European Standard

We are very pleased to welcome you to the ARCHES project which is coordinated by the State Office for Cultural Heritage Management Baden-Württemberg in Germany and consists of 8 partners from 7 countries.

ARCHES is an exciting project which started on June 2012 and runs till May 2014. It will propose a standard and manual of best practices for the management of archaeological resources.

We look forward to keeping you informed through this newsletter which will be published 2 times a year.

You can also follow us and join in discussions about the project on the ARCHES page on LinkedIn.

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The background of the project

In 2007 The Europae Archaeologiae Consilium¹ (<http://www.E-A-C.org>) held a symposium on archaeological archiving, which revealed that many member countries shared common problems. The most pressing issues are the provision of good access to archaeological archives, setting and sustaining digital archive standards, wide variations in archaeological recording practice and maintaining good curatorial practice in order that historic artefacts and collections can be best preserved, displayed, accessed and

circulated within Europe in accordance with the Treaty of Valletta, 1992.

There was unanimous agreement that it was desirable to develop a guide to best practice and adopt an overarching standard for archaeological archives across Europe. The EAC Board took the decision to form a Working Party to find solutions to the issues identified at the symposium (<http://www.european-archaeological-council.org/13-0-Archives.html>). The EAC working party has eight representatives from seven countries and has met on a quarterly basis over the last four years. It also has a corresponding member from the Society of American Archaeologists, which is working towards a similar goal and the two groups will share developments. In these regular meetings the working party has covered the common ground that our respective countries share with respect to archiving and has thoroughly debated the means for developing the proposed standard and disseminates it in the form of a manual. The result is a clear scope and detailed methodology for achieving our goal.

The ARCHES project

The ARCHES project is funded by the Culture Programme 2007-2013 – Strand 1.2.1. Cooperation measures of European Commission (Agreement number 2012-1399/001-001).



The purpose of the project is to agree a European standard that will benefit cultural heritage practice and management in Europe and to produce a best practice manual and twinned web presence for the creation, compilation, transfer and curation of the products of European archaeology.

This project will be achieved through the cooperation of eight partners from seven European states. Recognition of an agreed standard will facilitate the management of the archaeological resource across all participating states. This project will promote the sharing of best practice for archaeological archives in the protection, preservation and presentation of archaeological materials and information. It

will facilitate access to our common cultural heritage across Europe.

The proposed manual for the creation, compilation, transfer and curation of archaeological archives, will bring together the recommendations of existing country and state-specific standards and guidance documents, provide standards where none currently exist, and provide guidance for implementation of shared best practice in all the participating countries. The EAC working party will continue to exist in order to guarantee the sustainability of the manual and web presence thus ensuring that they remain current and relevant.

ARCHES partner profiles

In this newsletter:

1. State Office for Cultural Heritage Management Baden-Württemberg, Esslingen, Germany
2. The Swedish National Heritage Board



State Office for Cultural Heritage Management Baden-Württemberg, Esslingen, Germany

Representative: David Bibby

The State Office for Cultural Heritage Management is the central authority for cultural heritage management in the federal state of Baden-Wuerttemberg. Its goal is the preservation, investigation and communication of the cultural heritage of Baden-Württemberg. At Esslingen/Neckar near the state capital of Stuttgart around 150 specialists including archaeologists, historians, art historians, architects, photographers, illustrators, restorers, natural scientists of diverse disciplines, engineers, computer specialists and technicians work to this achieve this goal.

There are two branch offices, both located near Lake Constance. Aquatic and wetland archaeology, archaeobotanic and dendrochronology are situated Gaienhofen-Hemmenhofen. Anthropology and archaeozoology are centred in Konstanz.

The responsibilities of the State Office are multifaceted, covering fundamental and supraregional aspects of heritage management, including the management of archaeological, architectural and art historical monuments.

The State Office complements and augments the work of the Departments for Cultural Heritage Management in the Regional Administrative Authorities of Stuttgart, Karlsruhe, Freiburg and Tübingen, providing support in all state-wide issues.



Heuneburg, Hundersingen, Danube Valley, Baden-Württemberg. Early Celtic princely seat/hillfort (Photo: LAD, Otto Braasch, Landshut)

Within the State Office, six departments are responsible for:

- representing Baden-Württemberg's cultural heritage management
- developing criteria for the compilation and assessment of cultural heritage
- preparing guidelines for cultural heritage management and collaborating their implementation
- public relations
- providing advice and supervision to heritage management boards and owners in heritage management matters
- providing advice to owners of cultural heritage
- carry out and evaluating archaeological excavations
- restoring excavated archaeological finds as well as art and architectural monuments
- developing restoration methods
- providing scientific, technical and historical expertise
- carrying out archaeological prospection
- preparing and coordinating cultural heritage promotion programmes in the federal state of Baden-Württemberg
- preparing publications on cultural heritage management
- providing a scientific library
- central data collection and documentation

The Swedish National Heritage Board

Representative: Annika Carlsenn

The Swedish National Heritage Board is the agency of the Swedish government that is responsible for heritage and historic environment issues. Our mission is to play a proactive, coordinating role in heritage promotion efforts and to ensure that the historic environment is preserved in the most effective possible manner.





The Swedish National Heritage Board, which serves as Sweden's central administrative agency in the area of heritage and the historic environment, is under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture. The Cabinet's objectives for the Board include encouraging: 1) preservation and protection of the historic environment; 2) respect for the heritages of different groups; 3) appreciation of, commitment to, and the assumption of responsibility for one's own heritage.

Working Together for a Sustainable Society

One of the Board's primary tasks is to empower heritage as a force in the evolution of a democratic, sustainable society. The Board works closely with national agencies and organizations, as well as county administrative boards, regional museums and other local groups. The joint effort gathers and disseminates information about heritage and the historic environment, develops new working methods, and identifies innovative ways of exploring the relationship between human beings, their surroundings and society at large.

Activities of the Board

Vital to the Board's work is elevating the status of heritage - along with protecting, documenting and preserving the historic environment - on the road to a sustainable society. As the national coordinating agency, the Board has overall responsibility for promoting the objectives of Sweden's heritage policy. Among the Board's activities are various initiatives to protect the historic environment. That includes the accumulation and dissemination of information, preservation, conservation, interagency coordination and archaeological ventures.

Accessible, Useful and Vital

Heritage belongs to everyone, and protecting and preserving the historic environment is a responsibility shared by every member of society. The Board has a proactive, coordinating and inspirational role to play in that effort. At the core of what we do is the vision of a heritage that is accessible, useful and vital for people everywhere.



The ARCHES Kick-off Meeting

The Kick-off meeting took place in the beautiful city of Esslingen, Baden-Württemberg (Germany) on June 12-13, 2012. During this first meeting, the project's various components have been detailed: the core standard, the best practice manual, the preparation and organisation of the national/regional workshops, the gathering of the bibliographical resources. Various

collaborations have been put in place: ArchaeoConcept (Switzerland) will, as an associate partner in the EAC, bring the best practice manual to our Swiss colleagues for feedback; the European Heritage Network Herein will have an important informative role to play concerning their data on archaeological archiving.

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